

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 01125 01 OF 02 080853Z
ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 W
-----011268 080855Z /12
R 080742Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2638
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LUBUMBASHI 1125

FI CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJECT: POST MEMORANDUM: AMERICAN CONSULATE, LUBUMBASHI

REF: (A) STATE 212834; (B) INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS TO POST,
PAGE 4

1. STATE OF RELATIONS: A. EMBASSY KINSHASA PROVIDES STATE-
MENT ON GENERAL STATE OF US/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. B. SHABA RE-
GION, THE LUBUMBASHI CONSULAR DISTRICT, IS IMPORTANT TO
ZAIRE AND TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS WEALTH, ITS DISAFFEC-
TION WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ITS FIVE-TIMES-DEMONSTRATED
POTENTIAL FOR NATIONAL POLITICAL DISRUPTION, ITS SIZE, AND
ITS LOCATION, WITH BORDERS ON FOUR NATIONS. SHABA PRODUCES
60 PERCENT OF THE WEST'S SUPPLIES OF COBALT, 8 PERCENT OF ITS
COPPER, AND ONE PERCENT OF ITS ZINC. SHABA MINERALS PRODUCTION
PROVIDES MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF ZAIRE'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE. WHEN
SHABA SNEEZES, ZAIRE CALLS FOR AN OXYGEN TENT.
C. SHABANS, FORMERLY KATANGANS, HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH
THE KINSHASA CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN
1960. THE SHABANS KNOW THAT THE REGION IS ECONOMICALLY
VIALE IN ITSELF AND LOOK WITH A MIXTURE OF DISDAIN,
FEAR, AND DESIRE TO BE WANTED TOWARD THE REST OF THE
COUNTRY. KATANGA TRIED TO FLY ALONE IN 1960 AND FAILED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 01125 01 OF 02 080853Z

IN THE FACE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, UN, AND OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL OPPOSITION. THERE WERE FURTHER UPHEAVALS IN
1964 AND 1967 AND THEN TWO MAJOR INVASIONS IN MARCH
1977 AND MAY 1978, FROM OUTSIDE ZAIRE'S BORDERS BUT
DRAWING STRONGLY UPON SHABAN AND SPECIFICALLY LUNDA
DISCONTENT, THAT REQUIRED FOREIGN INTERVENTION TO SUP-
PRESS. SHABANS IN 1978 FOR THE MOST PART SAY THEY

ONLY WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND RECEIVE THEIR FAIR SHARE OF WHAT IS IN LARGE PART WEALTH FROM THEIR SOIL, NOT GO IT ALONE. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP REALIZES THE COUNTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON SHABAN WEALTH AND IS RELUCTANT TO LET SHABANS PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL PROCESS TO THEIR FULL WEIGHT, PARTLY BECAUSE THAT COULD REPRESENT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE SPOILS AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS SHABAN MANIFESTATIONS OF SOMEWHAT LESS THAN TOTAL LOYALTY TO THE NATION.

D. ZAIRIANS IN GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF A CONTINUING US INTEREST IN ZAIRE. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS BELIEVE THAT THE US BASICALLY SUPPORTS THE APPROACH AND THE POLICIES OF THE PRESENT GOZ, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU. INASMUCH AS SHABANS ARE POLITICALLY AWARE AND RESENT THEIR UNDERREPRESENTATION IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, IN PART THEY PASS SOME OF THIS RESENTMENT ON TO THE UNITED STATES, WHICH THEY PERCEIVE AS SUPPORTING THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT. MANY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, IN OUR FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS AND BELIEVE THAT IT IS SIMPLY A QUESTION OF PERSUADING US TO "DO RIGHT," EITHER BY WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FROM MOBUTU OR BY CONVINCING HIM TO DO RIGHT BY THEM.

2. ILLUSTRATIVE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS:

A. TO KEEP TRACK OF AND RETAIN SOME CREDIBILITY WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 01125 01 OF 02 080853Z

FULL RANGE OF OPPOSING POLITICAL FACTIONS IN SHABA, INCLUDING IDEOLOGICAL AND ETHNIC OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE PURSUING A POLICY CONSISTENT WITH BASIC U.S. POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM STABILITY OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.

B. TO PURSUE A POLICY OF CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING AVAILABILITY TO AMERICANS AND OTHER WESTERN END-USERS OF SHABA'S MINERAL WEALTH -- ON A MORE PRACTICAL LEVEL, CONSERVING THE HEALTH OF GECA-MINES, THE NATIONAL SHABA-BASED MINING CONGLOMERATE WHICH LAYS THE GOLDEN EGGS -- WHILE AVOIDING EMBROILMENT IN THE CONSTANT PUSH-AND-PULL THAT GOES ON AMONG ZAIRIAN AND VARIOUS FOREIGN INTERESTS IN SHABA MINERALS.

C. TO MONITOR, MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH, AND INTERPRET THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 01125 02 OF 02 080910Z
ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 W
-----011445 080913Z /12

R 080742Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2639
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LUBUMBASHI 1125

FI CHANNEL

RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES WHICH PLAY ON EVENTS IN SHABA FROM NEIGHBORING ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA, FROM BELGIUM WHICH SINCE INDEPENDENCE HAS MAINTAINED A LARGER ROLE IN SHABA THAN IT HAS IN THE REST OF ZAIRE, FROM FRANCE WHOSE MILITARY STRENGTH DIRECTLY AND WITH THE COOPERATION OF MOROCCO HAS TWICE PULLED THE GOZ'S CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE IN SHABA, AND FROM OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS THE FRG AND JAPAN.

D. TO KEEP TRACK OF, TO PROTECT, AND TO FORWARD THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRESENCE IN SHABA -- MISSIONARIES, THE NORTH SHABA CORN-GROWING PROJECT -- THE LARGEST US AID PROJECT IN ZAIRE, THE US-CONTRACTED, EXIM BANK SUPPORTED INGA-SHABA TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, PEACE CORPS, USICA, FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS, AND OTHER AMERICANS INVOLVED ACROSS SHABA, A REGION THE SIZE OF FRANCE.

E. TO DEAL WITH THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/PROBLEMS AS PART OF A MISSION DIRECTED FROM MORE THAN 1,000 MILES AWAY, OUT OF TELEPHONE CONTACT, LINKED BY SOMETIMES UNCERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTED SOMETIMES IMPERFECTLY BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM WHICH OF NECESSITY RELIES ON A TORTUOUSLY SLOW SYSTEM OF POUCHES AND SUPPLY ACROSS THE THOUSAND MILES BY AIR ZAIRE, ON THE SHORT LIST OF THE WORLD'S VERY WORST AIRLINES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 01125 02 OF 02 080910Z

3. EVALUATION:

A. WITH A SMALL (SIX AMERICANS, COUNTING THE BPAO), RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED PERMANENT STAFF AND A PARADE OF GENERALLY COMPETENT TDY PERSONNEL, IF WE ARE TO BELIEVE WHAT WE ARE TOLD BY THE EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON ELEMENTS

THE CONSULATE DOES A REASONABLY GOOD JOB OF FULFILLING THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES.

B. WE ARE PUSHED HARD TO MEET WHAT REALLY DOES SEEM TO US TO BE A GNAWING HUNGER FOR REPORTING FROM SHABA. SELF-PREOCCUPATION ASIDE, IN RECENT CONGOLESE/ZAIRIAN HISTORY, IT HAS FREQUENTLY SEEMED THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE COUNTRY THAT WAS IMPORTANT HAPPENED IN SHABA. IT IS A LOT OF GROUND FOR A SMALL STAFF TO COVER AND WE SOMETIMES FEEL WE LACK TIME TO REPORT ALL THAT IS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO END-USERS.

C. WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH PHYSICAL COMMUNICATIONS BUT ARE PRESENTLY FUNCTIONING WELL WITH AN ERTS SYSTEM OPERATED BY AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT C&R OFFICER AND HAVE BEEN PROMISED IN THE FUTURE BY THE DEPARTMENT EITHER FIRST PLACE IN THE LINE FOR AFRECON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INSTALLATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE TCU SYSTEM.

D. THE POST ALSO SHOWS SOME SLIGHT NEGLECT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES, REFLECTING HIGHER, VERY VALID PRIORITIES OVER THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM MARCH 1977 80-DAY-WAR (SHABA ONE) THROUGH THE MAY 1978 INVASION (SHABA TWO) TO THE PRESENT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WITH THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF PAN AFRICAN FORCES, SHABA WILL REMAIN PEACEFUL LONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT THE POST TO DEVOTE MORE OF ITS RESOURCES TO RESTORING A STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE BASE FOR CARRYING OUT ITS PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ARE ALSO HOPEFUL OF DEVELOPING IMPROVED LINES OF CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY IN KINSHASA TO IM-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 01125 02 OF 02 080910Z

PROVE THE QUALITY OF NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT THAT THE CONSULATE RECEIVES FROM THE EMBASSY IN A RANGE OF FIELDS INCLUDING PROCUREMENT, FUNDS FOR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT.

E. FINALLY, LIVING UNDER A CURFEW, WITH MAIL TRANSIT TIME FROM THE US RUNNING ABOUT A MONTH AND PARCELS TAKING SEVERAL MONTHS, AND NO COMMISSARY, WE BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE A GOOD CASE FOR HAVING THE POST DIFFERENTIAL RAISED FROM 20 PERCENT -- WHICH KINSHASA RECEIVES -- TO 25 PERCENT, REFLECTING THE IMPACT OF OUR ANNUAL WARS ON LIFE AT POST. SIMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: FI
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB01125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-1109
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780989/aaaacvmh.tel
Line Count: 213
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba401054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIG
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 212834
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1505416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST MEMORANDUM: AMERICAN CONSULATE, LUBUMBASHI
TAGS: ASIG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba401054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014